

Appl. No.: 10/627,935
Reply to Office Action of: May 17, 2004

Remarks

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 stand rejected. The following remarks are addressed to the Office Action dated May 17, 2004.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-2 and 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Granau (U.S. Patent No. 4,375,011). Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Granau in view of Guest (U.S. Patent No. 5,615,895). Claims 6-12 are rejected under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Granau in view of Law (U.S. Patent No. 4,900,068).

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 as amended is allowable because it includes a feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely "an interlocking anti-rotation element integrally formed in said seal." Granau uses a frictional anti-rotational bushing 18 (see Col. 2, lines 5-8). Law provides a clip 18 with fingers for axial retention of a non-metal conduit for retention of the conduit (see Col. 2, lines 62-66 and Col. 3, lines 9-13). However, clip of Law is not a seal. Rather, the liquid-tight, gas-tight joint in Law is formed by an interference fit between the conduit and a ferrule (see Col. 2, lines 51-56). The other references fail to provide what Granau and Law lack -- an interlocking anti-rotation element formed on a seal.

Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 as amended is also allowable because it includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely "a resilient substantially tubular seal disposed between the line and the line duct, the line being introducible at least partially into the line duct." In Granau, a non-tubular packing (seal) 16 is disposed between a screw nut 14 and a cable (line) 20. Thus in Granau, the line and line duct do not overlap, and the seal is created by a line contact. Moreover, Granau emphasizes that the

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conical taper of the packing is essential (see Col. 2, lines 13-18). Thus, Granau actually teaches away from a substantially tubular seal.

Claims 2-5 and 7-12 depend from claim 1 and Applicants respectfully contend that they are allowable for the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 13-15 are newly added to precisely claim embodiments of the invention. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

For all the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-15 and issuance of Letters Patent for the subject invention. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 50-1581.

Respectfully submitted,



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